

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 1 318 689 A2

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:

11.06.2003 Bulletin 2003/24

(51) Int Cl.7: H04Q 7/38

(21) Application number: 02027548.3

(22) Date of filing: 09.12.2002

(84) Designated Contracting States:

AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE SI SK TR

Designated Extension States:

AL LT LV MK RO

• Kayama, Hidetoshi, Int.Prop.Dpt.,

NTT DoCoMo, Inc.

Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo (JP)

• Umeda, Narumi, Int. Prop. Dpt.,

NTT DoCoMo, Inc.

Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo (JP)

(30) Priority: 10.12.2001 JP 2001376420

(71) Applicant: NTT DoCoMo, Inc.

Tokyo 100-6150 (JP)

(74) Representative: HOFFMANN - EITLE

Patent- und Rechtsanwälte

Arabellastrasse 4

81925 München (DE)

(72) Inventors:

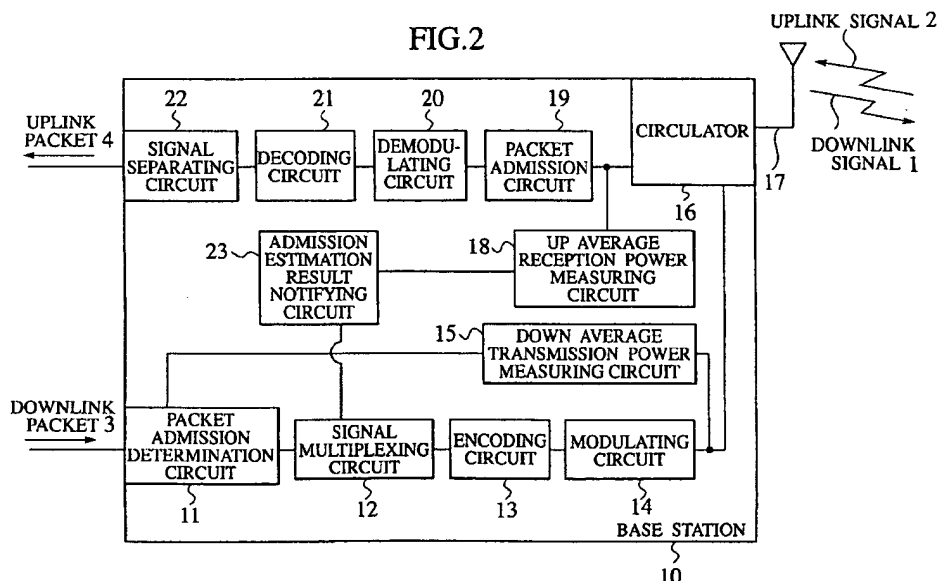
- Chen, Lan, Int. Prop. Dpt., NTT DoCoMo, Inc.
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo (JP)

(54) **Communication control system, communication control method, base station and mobile station**

(57) It is an object of the present invention to control the traffic that flows in a radio link to ensure the stability of the network as well as to prevent the deterioration of the communication quality due to the transmission of packets exceeding the capacity, and to increase the communication capacity. The invention relates to a communication control system in a packet mobile commu-

nication that transmits a downlink packet (3) from a base station (10) to a mobile station (30) via a radio network. According to the invention, the base station (10) comprises a transmission determiner (11) that determines whether or not to transmit the downlink packet (3) to the radio network in accordance with the state of congestion of the radio network and the traffic type (DSCP) of the downlink packet (3).

FIG.2



EP 1 318 689 A2

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Description

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is based upon and claims the benefit of priority from the prior Japanese patent Applications No. P2001-376420, filed on 10 December, 2001; the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a communication control system and a communication control method in packet mobile communication, and to a base station and a mobile station, which are suitable for being applied thereto.

2. Description of the Related Art

[0003] Traffic admission control is an essential technique to prevent congestion from occurring in the network, to ensure the stability of the network and to support Qos (Quality of Service), by controlling the traffic coming into a network. Particularly, since the radio communication (mobile communication) environment is limited in radio resources, the admission control of the traffic flowing in a radio link (network) is indispensable.

[0004] Conventionally, in the mobile communication environment based on circuit switching, "traffic admission control" based on the available number of channels allotted to each cell, or "traffic admission control" determining the number of users admitted simultaneously based on the monitored result of the loss probability or the deterioration rate, is carried out (refer to "Call admission control method and apparatus in mobile communication"; JP P1997-84105 A).

[0005] In ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) communication environment, it is determined at the connection setting whether to permit the relevant connection setting request, to reject the relevant connection setting request, or to negotiate the connection setting conditions contained in the relevant connection setting request.

[0006] Further, conventionally, for the network state of congestion estimation carried out at the traffic admission control, buffer queue average length (refer to "Congestion prevention device and method thereof using RED": JPP2001-111556 A), or buffer queue usage rate (refer to "Congestion control system in intelligent network": JP P2000-358068) is used.

[0007] However, in packet mobile communication, since a channel is shared by a plurality of users, and the occurrence pattern and number of the packets such as voice packets and data packets change, there is a problem in that it is difficult to apply "traffic admission control"

in a mobile communication environment based on the conventional circuit switching.

[0008] Also, in packet mobile communication, since it is a connectionless communication, there is a problem in that the "traffic admission control" used in an ATM communication environment, which is a connection-type communication, cannot be applied thereto.

[0009] Further, in conventional network state of congestion determination, the traffic type of packet is not taken into consideration. Therefore, when it is determined that the network is in a congested state, there is a problem in that the probability of the rejection of real-time traffic is increased, thereby resulting in a decrease in Qos.

[0010] Furthermore, in the packet mobile communication environment, the amount of radio resources creates a bottleneck more frequently than the capacity of the queue.

[0011] Accordingly, there is a problem in that it is difficult to estimate the state of congestion of the network using the average queue length or the queue usage rate.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0012] Accordingly, the invention has been proposed in view of the above-described problems.

[0013] An object of the invention is to control the traffic that flows in a radio link to ensure the stability of the network as well as to prevent the deterioration of communication quality due to the transmission of packets exceeding the capacity thereof, and to increase communication volume.

[0014] Another object of the invention is to increase communication quality by carrying out "traffic admission control" in accordance with the state of use of radio resources and the traffic type of a packet.

[0015] The gist of a first characteristic of the invention is a communication control system in a packet mobile communication that transmits a downlink packet from a base station to a mobile station via a radio network, wherein the base station comprises a transmission determiner for determining whether or not to transmit the downlink packet to the radio network in accordance with the state of congestion of the radio network and the traffic type of the downlink packet.

[0016] In the first characteristic of the invention, it is preferred that the transmission determiner estimates the state of congestion of the radio network in accordance with the state of use of transmission power resources in the base station.

[0017] In the first characteristic of the invention, it is preferred that the transmission determiner estimates the state of congestion of the radio network by comparing a predetermined threshold set for each traffic type of the downlink packet with the state of use of transmission power resources in the base station.

[0018] In the first characteristic of the invention, it is

preferred that the traffic type is identified by means of a code point of a DiffServ IP packet (DSCP).

[0019] The gist of a second characteristic of the invention is a communication control system in a packet mobile communication that transmits an uplink packet from a mobile station to a base station via a radio network, wherein the base station comprises an admission determiner for determining whether or not to admit the uplink packet that is transmitted from the mobile station via the radio network in accordance with the state of congestion of the radio network and the traffic type of the uplink packet, and a notifier for notifying the determined result to the mobile station; the mobile station comprises a transmission determiner for determining whether or not to transmit the uplink packet to the radio network in accordance with the notified result.

[0020] In the second characteristic of the invention, it is preferred that the admission determiner estimate the state of congestion of the radio network in accordance with the state of use of reception power resources in the base station.

[0021] In the second characteristic of the invention, it is preferred that the admission determiner estimates the state of congestion of the radio network by comparing a predetermined threshold set for each traffic type of the uplink packet with the state of use of reception power resources in the base station.

[0022] In the second characteristic of the invention, it is preferred that the traffic type is identified by means of a code point of a DiffServ IP packet (DSCP).

[0023] The gist of a third characteristic of the invention is a communication control method in a packet mobile communication that transmits a downlink packet from a base station to a mobile station via a radio network comprising a step of A) determining, in the base station, whether or not to transmit the downlink packet to the radio network in accordance with the state of congestion of the radio network and the traffic type of the downlink packet.

[0024] The gist of a fourth characteristic of the invention is a communication control method in a packet mobile communication that transmits an uplink packet from a mobile station to a base station via a radio network, comprising the steps of: A) determining, in the base station, whether or not to admit the uplink packet transmitted from the mobile station via the radio network in accordance with the state of congestion of the radio network and the traffic type of the uplink packet; B) notifying, from the base station, the determined result to the mobile station; and C) determining, in the mobile station, whether or not to transmit the uplink packet to the radio network in accordance with the notified result.

[0025] The gist of a fifth characteristic of the invention is a base station that transmits a downlink packet to a mobile station via a radio network comprising a transmission determiner for determining whether or not to transmit the downlink packet to the radio network in accordance with the state of congestion of the radio net-

work and the traffic type of the downlink packet.

[0026] The gist of a sixth characteristic of the invention is a base station that receives an uplink packet from a mobile station via a radio network comprising an admission determiner for determining whether or not to admit the uplink packet transmitted from the mobile station via the radio network in accordance with the state of congestion of the radio network and the traffic type of the uplink packet, and a notifier for notifying the determined result to the mobile station.

[0027] The gist of a seventh characteristic of the invention is a mobile station that transmits an uplink packet to a base station via a radio network comprising a transmission determiner for determining whether or not to transmit the uplink packet to the radio network by the base station in accordance with the state of congestion of the radio network and the traffic type of the uplink packet.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

[0028] FIG. 1 is an illustration showing a packet mobile communication environment including a communication control system according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0029] FIG. 2 is a functional block diagram of a base station according to an embodiment of the invention:

[0030] FIG. 3 is a diagram showing traffic types according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0031] FIG. 4 is a diagram showing traffic types according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0032] FIG. 5 is a diagram showing an admission threshold for each traffic type according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0033] FIG. 6 is a functional block diagram of a mobile station according to an embodiment of the invention.

[0034] FIG. 7 is a flowchart diagram illustrating an operation of the base station when a communication control system according to an embodiment of the invention performs a traffic admission control with respect to a downlink packet.

[0035] FIG. 8 is a flowchart diagram illustrating an operation of the base station when a communication control system according to an embodiment of the invention performs a traffic admission control with respect to an uplink packet.

[0036] FIG. 9 is a flowchart diagram illustrating an operation of the mobile station when a communication control system according to an embodiment of the invention performs a traffic admission control with respect to a downlink packet.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

(Configuration of a communication control system according to an embodiment of the invention)

[0037] The configuration of a communication control system according to an embodiment of the invention will be described with reference to the drawings. FIG. 1 is an illustration showing a packet mobile communication environment including the communication control system according to the embodiment of the invention.

[0038] The packet mobile communication environment shown in FIG. 1 is configured with a base station 10 and a plurality of mobile stations 30₁ to 30_n.

[0039] In FIG. 1, the plurality of mobile stations 30₁ to 30_n are connected to the base station 10, downlink signals 1₁ to 1_n are transmitted from the base station 10 to the plurality of mobile stations 30₁ to 30_n, and uplink signals 2₁ to 2_n are transmitted from the plurality of mobile stations 30₁ to 30_n to the base station 10.

[0040] In the packet mobile communication environment, in which a downlink packet 3 (downlink signal 1) is transmitted from the base station 10 to a mobile station 30 and an uplink packet 4 (uplink signal 2) is transmitted from the mobile station 30 to the base station 10 via a radio network, the communication control system according to the embodiment performs traffic admission control and network congestion control. The above is achieved by the functions provided to the base station 10 and the plurality of mobile stations 30₁ to 30_n.

[0041] Among the functions provided to the base station 10 and the plurality of mobile stations 30₁ to 30_n, those relevant to the communication control system according to the embodiment will be described.

[0042] As shown in FIG. 2, the base station 10 comprises a packet admission determination circuit 11, a signal multiplexing circuit 12, an encoding circuit 13, a modulating circuit 14, a down average transmission power measuring circuit 15, a circulator 16, a radio antenna 17, an up average reception power measuring circuit 18, a packet admission circuit 19, a demodulating circuit 20, a decoding circuit 21, a signal separating circuit 22, and an admission estimation result notifying circuit 23.

[0043] According to the embodiment, the packet admission determination circuit 11 constitutes a transmission determiner configured to determine whether or not to transmit a downlink packet 3 to the radio network according to the state of congestion of the radio network and the traffic type of the downlink packet 3.

[0044] Also, the up average reception power measuring circuit 18 and the admission estimation result notifying circuit 23 constitute an admission determiner configured to determine whether or not to admit the uplink packet 4 transmitted from the mobile station 30 via the radio network according to the state of congestion of the radio network and the traffic type of the uplink packet 4, and a notifier configured to notify the determined result

to the mobile station 30.

[0045] The packet admission determination circuit 11, which is connected to the signal multiplexing circuit 12 and to the down average transmission power measuring circuit 15, estimates the network state of congestion according to the down average transmission power transferred from the down average transmission power measuring circuit 15 and to the traffic type of the downlink packet 3.

[0046] The packet admission determination circuit 11 determines whether or not to admit the downlink packet 3 received from the superior network (a switching center, a radio network controller or the like) based on the estimated result, and transfers the downlink packet 3, that it is determined to admit, to the signal multiplexing circuit 12.

[0047] According to the embodiment, it is assumed that the traffic type of the packet is identified by a "code point of a DiffServ IP packet: Diffserv Code Point (DSCP)" that is set in the packet header of the relevant packet.

[0048] However, the invention is not limited to the above. The traffic type of the packet may be determined in such manner that the traffic type is notified at the time of reserving radio resources, and so on.

[0049] Referring to FIG. 3 and FIG 4, the traffic types of the packets used in the embodiment will be described. As the traffic types of the packets used in the embodiment, as shown FIG. 3, three types are defined; i.e., an "EF (Expedited Forwarding) type", an "AF (Assured Forwarding) type" and a "BE (Best Effort) type".

[0050] And further, as shown in FIG. 4, the "AF type" is classified into four classes (class 1 to 4) in accordance with priority (packet transmission speed, buffer length or the like). The four classes are categorized into three levels (level 1 to 3) respectively on the basis of discard priority.

[0051] The "DSCP" of a packet of the "EF type" is "101110"; the "DSCP" of a packet of the "AF type" is "XXXXYY"; and the "DSCP" of a packet of the "BE type" is "000000".

[0052] The "DSCP" of a packet of the "AF type/class 1/level 1" is "001010"; the "DSCP" of a packet of the "AF type/class 1/level 2" is "001100"; and the "DSCP" of a packet of the "AF type/class 1/level 3" is "001110".

[0053] The "DSCP" of a packet of the "AF type/class 2/level 1" is "010010"; the "DSCP" of a packet of the "AF type/class 2/level 2" is "010100"; and the "DSCP" of a packet of the "AF type/class 2/level 3" is "010110".

[0054] The "DSCP" of a packet of the "AF type/class 3/level 1" is "011010"; the "DSCP" of a packet of the "AF type/class 3/level 2" is "011100"; and the "DSCP" of a packet of the "AF type/class 3/level 3" is "011110".

[0055] The "DSCP" of a packet of the "AF type/class 4/level 1" is "100010"; the "DSCP" of a packet of the "AF type/class 4/level 2" is "100100"; and the "DSCP" of a packet of the "AF type/class 4/level 3" is "100110".

[0056] The "EF type" defines the packets classified in

the highest class in quality and priority. The "AF type" defines the packets classified in the class next in priority to the "EF type". The "BE type" defines best-effort type packets.

[0057] Hereinafter, the "AF type/class 1/level 1 to 3" will be referred to, generically, as "AF1 type"; the "AF type/class 2/level 1 to 3" will be referred to, generically, as "AF2 type"; the "AF type/class 3/level 1 to 3" will be referred to, generically, as "AF3 type"; and the "AF type/class 4/level 1 to 3" will be referred to, generically, as "AF4 type".

[0058] In the embodiment, packets of "EF type" are defined as "real-time type" packets. The other traffic type packets are defined as "non-real-time type" packets.

[0059] Specifically, the packet admission determination circuit 11 calculates the "down radio resources usage rate (state of use of transmission power resources in the base station 10) R" in order to estimate the network state of congestion.

[0060] Herein, the term "down radio resources usage rate R" means the proportion of the "down maximum transmission power" occupied by "down average transmission power".

[0061] Also, the term "down average transmission power" means a time average of the down transmission power per predetermined period of time. For example, the term "down average transmission power" means a time average of the down transmission power for each time slot within each frame that has already been transmitted by the base station 10.

[0062] Further, the term "down maximum transmission power" means a maximum value of the power by which the base station 10 can transmit the downlink signal 1.

[0063] When the down radio resources usage rate R is smaller than the admission threshold N_i of the traffic type of the downlink packet 3, the packet admission determination circuit 11 determines to admit the downlink packet 3.

[0064] On the other hand, when the down radio resources usage rate R is equal to or larger than the admission threshold N_i of the traffic type of the downlink packet 3, the packet admission determination circuit 11 determines not to admit the downlink packet 3 in the case where the downlink packet 3 is real time traffic (i.e., packet of "EF type"); and determines to buffer the downlink packet 3 in the case where the downlink packet 3 is non-real-time traffic (i.e. packet other than "EF type").

[0065] FIG. 5 shows admission threshold N_i for each traffic type. The symbol "i" denotes a traffic type ("EF type", "AF4 type", "AF3 type", "AF2 type", "AF1 type" or "BE type").

[0066] In the embodiment, as shown in FIG. 5, the admission threshold N_{EF} is set to 90%; the admission threshold N_{AF4} is set to 80%; the admission threshold N_{AF3} is set to 70%; the admission threshold N_{AF2} is set

to 60%; the admission threshold N_{AF1} is set to 50%; and the admission threshold N_{BE} is set to 40%.

[0067] The packet admission determination circuit 11 renews the radio resources usage rate R in accordance with the down average transmission power from the down average transmission power measuring circuit 15 at every predetermined period of time (for example, every frame).

[0068] The signal multiplexing circuit 12 is connected to the packet admission determination circuit 11, the encoding circuit 13, and the admission estimation result notifying circuit 23; and multiplexes the downlink packet 3 from the packet admission determination circuit 11 and an admission estimation result from the admission estimation result notifying circuit 23, and transmits it to the encoding circuit 13.

[0069] The encoding circuit 13 is connected to the signal multiplexing circuit 12 and the modulating circuit 14; and encodes the multiplexed signal from the signal multiplexing circuit 12, and transmits it to the modulating circuit 14.

[0070] The modulating circuit 14 is connected to the encoding circuit 13, the down average transmission power measuring circuit 15, and the circulator 16; and modulates the encoded signal from the encoding circuit 13, and transmits it to the down average transmission power measuring circuit 15 and the circulator 16.

[0071] The down average transmission power measuring circuit 15 is connected to the packet admission determination circuit 11 and the modulating circuit 14; and monitors the modulated signal from the modulating circuit 14 to measure the down average transmission power. The measured down average transmission power is transmitted to the packet admission determination circuit 11.

[0072] The down average transmission power measuring circuit 15 measures the down average transmission power at every predetermined period of time (for example, at every time slot within the frame).

[0073] The circulator 16 is connected to the modulating circuit 14, the radio antenna 17, the up average reception power measuring circuit 18 and the packet admission determination circuit 19; and switches between the transmission process of the downlink signal 1 transferred from the modulating circuit 14 to the radio antenna 17, and the reception process of the uplink signal 2 transferred from the radio antenna 17 to the packet admission determination circuit 19 and the up average reception power measuring circuit 18.

[0074] The up average reception power measuring circuit 18 is connected to the circulator 16 and the admission estimation result notifying circuit 23; and monitors the uplink signal 2 from the circulator 16 to measure the up average reception power, and transmits the measured up average reception power to the admission estimation result notifying circuit 23.

[0075] The up average reception power measuring circuit 18 measures the up average reception power

every predetermined period of time (for example, every time slot in the frame).

[0076] Herein, the up average reception power measuring circuit 18 may measure the average value of "SIR (Signal to Interference Power Ratio)" every predetermined period of time, as the up average reception power, in place of measuring the average value of the up average reception power level at every predetermined period of time.

[0077] The packet admission circuit 19 is connected to the circulator 16 and the demodulating circuit 20; and admits the uplink signal 2 from the circulator 16, to transmit the admitted uplink signal 2 to the demodulating circuit 20.

[0078] The demodulating circuit 20 is connected to the packet admission circuit 19 and the decoding circuit 21; and demodulates the uplink signal 2 from the packet admission circuit 19, and transfers it to the decoding circuit 21.

[0079] The decoding circuit 21 is connected to the demodulating circuit 20 and the signal separating circuit 22; and decodes the demodulated signal from the demodulating circuit 20, and transmits it to the signal separating circuit 22.

[0080] The signal separating circuit 22 is connected to the decoding circuit 21; and separates the decoded signal from the decoding circuit 21 and extracts the uplink packet 4 to transmit the extracted uplink packet 4 to the superior network.

[0081] The admission estimation result notifying circuit 23 is connected to the signal multiplexing circuit 12 and the up average reception power measuring circuit 18.

[0082] The admission estimation result notifying circuit 23 estimates the state of congestion of the radio network in accordance with the up average reception power from the up average reception power measuring circuit 18; determines whether or not to receive the uplink packet 4 of each traffic type based on the estimated result, and transmits the determined admission estimation result (to receive or not to receive) to the signal multiplexing circuit 12.

[0083] Specifically, in order to estimate the state of congestion of the radio network, the admission estimation result notifying circuit 23 calculates the "up radio resources usage rate (state of use of reception power resources in the base station 10) R".

[0084] Herein, the term "up radio resources usage rate R" means the proportion of the "up maximum reception power" occupied by "up average reception power"

[0085] The term "up average reception power" means the time average of the up reception power at every predetermined period of time, for example, the time average of the up reception power in each time slot in the frame that has been received by the base station 10.

[0086] The term "up maximum reception power" means the maximum value of power by which the base

station 10 can receive the uplink signal 2.

[0087] When the up radio resources usage rate R is smaller than the admission threshold N_i of the traffic type i, the admission estimation result notifying circuit 23 determines to admit the uplink packet 4 (uplink signal 2) of the traffic type i.

[0088] On the other hand, when the up radio resources usage rate R is equal to or larger than the admission threshold N_i of the traffic type i, the admission estimation result notifying circuit 23 determines not to admit the uplink packet 4 (uplink signal 2) of the traffic type i.

[0089] As shown in FIG. 6, the mobile station 30 comprises a packet input circuit 31, a traffic type check circuit 32, an encoding circuit 33, a modulating circuit 34, a circulator 35, a signal separating circuit 36, an admission Y/N judgment circuit 37, a transmission timing determination circuit 38, a demodulating circuit 39, a decoding circuit 40 and a packet output circuit 41.

[0090] According to the embodiment, the admission Y/N judgment circuit 37 constitutes a transmission determiner configured to determine whether or not to transmit the uplink packet 4 to the radio network in accordance with the result notified from the base station 10.

[0091] The packet input circuit 31 is connected to the traffic type check circuit 32. The packet input circuit 31 is an input interface for allowing a user of the mobile station 30 to input data (including voice data); and generates the uplink packet 4 based on the input data to transmit to the traffic type check circuit 32. When generating the uplink packet 4, the packet input circuit 31 sets a DSCP (traffic type) in the packet header in accordance with the content of the data.

[0092] The traffic type check circuit 32 is connected to the packet input circuit 31, the encoding circuit 33 and the admission Y/N judgment circuit 37; and checks the traffic type of the uplink packet 4 based on the DSCP in the packet header of the uplink packet 4 from the packet input circuit 31.

[0093] Also, the traffic type check circuit 32 transmits the checked traffic type to the admission Y/N judgment circuit 37 and transmits the uplink packet 4 from the packet input circuit 31 to the encoding circuit 33.

[0094] The encoding circuit 33 is connected to the traffic type check circuit 32, the modulating circuit 34 and the transmission timing determination circuit 38; and encodes the uplink packet 4 from the traffic type check circuit 32 in accordance with the transmission timing from the transmission timing determination circuit 38, and transfers it to the modulating circuit 34.

[0095] The modulating circuit 34 is connected to the encoding circuit 33 and the circulator 35; and modulates the encoded signal from the encoding circuit 33, and transfers it to the circulator 35.

[0096] The circulator 35 is connected to the modulating circuit 34 and the radio antenna 42; and switches between the transmission process of an uplink signal 2 from the modulating circuit 34 to the radio antenna 42,

and the reception process of a downlink signal 1 from the radio antenna 42 to the signal separating circuit 36.

[0097] The signal separating circuit 36 is connected to the circulator 35, the admission Y/N judgment circuit 37 and the demodulating circuit 39. The signal separating circuit 36 separates the admission estimation result in the downlink signal 1 from the circulator 35 to transmit to the admission Y/N judgment circuit 37; and transmits the rest thereof to the demodulating circuit 39.

[0098] The admission Y/N judgment circuit 37 is connected to the traffic type check circuit 32, the signal separating circuit 36 and the transmission timing determination circuit 38; and judges whether or not the traffic type of the uplink packet 4 is admitted by the base station 10 in accordance with the traffic type from the traffic type check circuit 32 and the admission estimation result from the signal separating circuit 36, and notifies the judged result to the transmission timing determination circuit 38.

[0099] The transmission timing determination circuit 38 is connected to the encoding circuit 33 and the admission Y/N judgment circuit 37; and generates transmission timing in accordance with the judged result from the admission Y/N judgment circuit 37, and transmits it to the encoding circuit 33.

[0100] The transmission timing determination circuit 38 does not generate the transmission timing when the result judged by the admission Y/N judgment circuit 37 is such that the traffic type of the uplink packet 4 is not admitted by the base station 10. As a result, the encoding circuit 33 does not encode the uplink packet 4.

[0101] The demodulating circuit 39 is connected to the signal separating circuit 36 and the decoding circuit 40; and demodulates the downlink signal 1 from the signal separating circuit 36, and transmits it to the decoding circuit 40.

[0102] The decoding circuit 40 is connected to the demodulating circuit 39 and the packet output circuit 41; and decodes the demodulated signal from the demodulating circuit 39, and transmits it to the packet output circuit 41.

[0103] The packet output circuit 41 is connected to the decoding circuit 40; and is an output interface that restores the downlink packet 3 in accordance with the decoded signal from the decoding circuit 40, and that outputs data (including voice data) to the user of the mobile station 30 according to the restored downlink packet 3.

(Operation of the communication control system according to the embodiment)

[0104] Referring to drawings, the operation of the communication control system having the configuration as described above will be described.

[0105] FIG. 7 is a flowchart diagram illustrating an operation of the base station 10 when the communication control system according to the embodiment performs a traffic admission control with respect to a downlink

packet.

[0106] FIG. 8 is a flowchart diagram illustrating an operation of the base station 10 when the communication control system according to the embodiment performs a traffic admission control with respect to an uplink packet.

[0107] FIG. 9 is a flowchart diagram illustrating an operation of the mobile station 30 when the communication control system according to the embodiment performs a traffic admission control with respect to an uplink packet.

[0108] First of all, the operation of the base station 10 when the communication control system according to the embodiment performs the traffic admission control with respect to the downlink packet 3 will be described.

[0109] As shown in FIG. 7, in step 701, the packet admission determination circuit 11 checks the traffic type of the downlink packet 3 by checking the DSCP set in the packet header of the downlink packet 3 received from the superior network.

[0110] In step 702, the packet admission determination circuit 11 compares the down radio resources usage rate R with the admission threshold N_i of traffic type of the downlink packet 3.

[0111] When the down radio resources usage rate R is smaller than the admission threshold N_i of traffic type of the downlink packet 3, in step 703, the packet admission determination circuit 11 determines to admit the downlink packet 3. The admitted downlink packet 3 is transmitted to the mobile station 30 via the signal multiplexing circuit 12, the encoding circuit 13, the modulating circuit 14, the circulator 16 and the radio antenna 17. Then, the operation proceeds to step 707.

[0112] When the down radio resources usage rate R is equal to or larger than the admission threshold N_i of traffic type of the downlink packet 3, in step 704, the packet admission determination circuit 11 determines whether or not the downlink packet 3 is a real time traffic (packet of "EF type").

[0113] When the downlink packet 3 is real time traffic, in step 705, the packet admission determination circuit 11 determines not to admit the downlink packet 3. And the packet admission determination circuit 11 notifies the fact to the superior network. Then, the operation proceeds to step 707.

[0114] When the downlink packet 3 is not real time traffic, in step 706, the packet admission determination circuit 11 determines to buffer the downlink packet 3. Then, the operation proceeds to step 707.

[0115] In step 707, the down average transmission power measuring circuit 15 measures the down average transmission power at every predetermined period of time (for example, every time slot in the frame), and transfers it to the packet admission determination circuit 11.

[0116] The packet admission determination circuit 11 renews the down radio resources usage rate R by recalculating the same in accordance with the down aver-

age transmission power value received from the down average transmission power measuring circuit 15. Then, the operation returns to step 701.

[0117] Secondly, the operation of the base station 10 when the communication control system according to the embodiment performs the traffic admission control with respect to the uplink packet 4 will be described.

[0118] As shown in FIG. 8, in step 801, the admission estimation result notifying circuit 23 estimates the state of congestion of the radio network in accordance with the up average reception power from the up average reception power measuring circuit 18, determines whether or not to admit the uplink packet 4 of each traffic type in accordance with the estimated result, and transfers the determined admission estimation result (to admit or not to admit) to the signal multiplexing circuit 12.

[0119] Specifically, the admission estimation result notifying circuit 23 compares the up radio resources usage rate R with the admission threshold N_i of traffic type of the uplink packet 4.

[0120] When the up radio resources usage rate R is smaller than the admission threshold N_i of the traffic type i , the admission estimation result notifying circuit 23 determines to admit the uplink packet 4 of the traffic type i .

[0121] On the other hand, when the up radio resources usage rate R is equal to or larger than the admission threshold N_i of the traffic type i , the admission estimation result notifying circuit 23 determines not to admit the uplink packet 4 of the traffic type i .

[0122] In step 802, the above-described admission estimation result is multiplexed with the downlink packet 3 by the signal multiplexing circuit 12 and transferred to the mobile station 30 via the encoding circuit 13, the modulating circuit 14, the circulator 16 and the radio antenna 17.

[0123] In step 803, the up average reception power measuring circuit 18 measures the up average reception power at every predetermined period of time (for example, every time slot in the frame), and transmits it to the admission estimation result notifying circuit 23.

[0124] The admission estimation result notifying circuit 23 renews the up radio resources usage rate R by recalculating the same in accordance with the up average reception power value received from the up average reception power measuring circuit 18. Then, the operation returns to step 801.

[0125] Thirdly, the operation of the mobile station 30 when the communication control system according to the embodiment performs the traffic admission control with respect to the uplink packet 4 will be described.

[0126] As shown in FIG. 9, in step 901, the packet input circuit 31 generates an uplink packet 4 based on the data input by a user of the mobile station 30.

[0127] At the step 902, the traffic type check circuit 32 checks the traffic type of the uplink packet 4 by checking the DSCP set in the packet header of the generated uplink packet 4.

[0128] In step 903, the admission Y/N judgment circuit

37 receives the admission estimation result transferred from the base station 10 via the circulator 35 and checks the contents thereof.

[0129] In step 904, the admission Y/N judgment circuit 37 judges whether or not to admit the uplink packet 4 in accordance with the above-described admission estimation result and the traffic type of the uplink packet 4 from the traffic check circuit 32.

[0130] When the circuit 37 judges to admit the uplink packet 4, in step 905, the transmission timing determination circuit 38 generates the transmission timing.

[0131] And then, in step 906, the uplink packet 4 is transmitted to the base station 10 via the encoding circuit 33, the modulating circuit 34, the circulator 35 and the radio antenna 42. Then, the operation returns to step 901.

[0132] When the circuit 37 judges not to admit the uplink packet 4, in step 907, the admission Y/N judgment circuit 37 estimates whether or not the uplink packet 3 is real time traffic (packet of "EF type").

[0133] When the uplink packet 3 is real time traffic, in step 908, the admission Y/N judgment circuit 37 rejects the admission of the uplink packet 4, and notifies the fact to the user of the mobile station 30. Then, the operation returns to step 901.

[0134] When the uplink packet 3 is not real time traffic, in step 909, the admission Y/N judgment circuit 37 buffers the uplink packet 4. Then, the operation returns to step 901.

(Operation and working-effect of the communication control system according to the embodiment)

[0135] In the communication control system according to the embodiment, since the packet admission determination circuit 11 of the base station 10 determines whether or not to transmit the downlink packet 3 in accordance with the state of congestion of the radio network, it is possible to control the down traffic that flows in a radio link to ensure the stability of the network, to prevent the deterioration in the communication quality due to transmission of downlink packets 3 exceeding the capacity, and to increase the communication capacity.

[0136] Also, in the communication control system according to the embodiment, since the packet admission determination circuit 11 of the base station 10 determines whether or not to transmit the downlink packet 3 in accordance with the traffic type (DSCP) of the downlink packet 3, it is possible to perform "traffic admission control" in accordance with the traffic type (DSCP) of the downlink packet 3 resulting in an enhanced communication quality.

[0137] Further, in the communication control system according to the embodiment, the up average reception power measuring circuit 18 and the admission estimation result notifying circuit 23 of the base station 10 determines whether or not to admit the uplink packet 4 in accordance with the state of congestion of the radio net-

work, and the admission Y/N judgment circuit 37 of the mobile station 30 determines whether or not to transmit the uplink packet 4 in accordance with the admission estimation result; therefore it is possible to control the up traffic that flow in the radio link to ensure the stability of the network, to prevent the deterioration of the communication quality due to the transmission quality of uplink packets 4 exceeding capacity, and to increase communication capacity.

[0138] Furthermore, owing to the communication control system according to the embodiment, the up average reception power measuring circuit 18 and the admission estimation result notifying circuit 23 of the base station 10 determine whether or not to admit the uplink packet 4 in accordance with the traffic type (DSCP) of the uplink packet 4, and the admission Y/N judgment circuit 37 of the mobile station 10 determines whether or not to transmit the uplink packet 4 in accordance with the admission estimation result; therefore it is possible to perform "traffic admission control" in accordance with the traffic type (DSCP) of the uplink packet 4 resulting in enhanced communication quality.

[0139] As described above, according to the invention, it is possible to control the traffic flowing in a radio link to ensure the stability of the network, to prevent the deterioration of the communication quality due to the quality of packets transmitted exceeding capacity, and to increase communication capacity.

[0140] Further, according to the invention, it is possible to perform "traffic admission control" in accordance with the radio resource usage state and the traffic type of the packet resulting in enhanced communication quality.

[0141] Additional advantages and modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific details and the representative embodiment shown and described herein. Accordingly, various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the general inventive concept as defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.

Claims

1. A communication control system in a packet mobile communication that transmits a downlink packet from a base station to a mobile station via a radio network, wherein
said base station comprises a transmission determiner for determining whether or not to transmit the downlink packet to the radio network in accordance with the state of congestion of said radio network and the traffic type of said downlink packet.
2. The communication control system according to claim 1, wherein said transmission determiner estimates the state of congestion of said radio network

in accordance with the state of use of transmission power resources in said base station.

3. The communication control system according to claim 2, wherein said transmission determiner estimates the state of congestion of said radio network by comparing a predetermined threshold set for each traffic type of said downlink packet with the state of use of transmission power resources in said base station.

4. The communication control system according to claim 1, wherein said traffic type is identified by means of a code point of a DiffServ IP packet (DSCP).

5. A communication control system in a packet mobile communication that transmits an uplink packet from a mobile station to a base station via a radio network, wherein said base station comprises

an admission determiner for determining whether or not to admit the uplink packet transmitted from said mobile station via the radio network in accordance with the state of congestion of said radio network and the traffic type of said uplink packet, and

a notifier for notifying the determined result to said mobile station; and

said mobile station comprises a transmission determiner for determining whether or not to transmit said uplink packet to said radio network in accordance with said notified result.

6. The communication control system according to claim 5, wherein said admission determiner estimates the state of congestion of said radio network in accordance with the state of use of reception power resources in said base station.

7. The communication control system according to claim 6, wherein said admission determiner estimates the state of congestion of said radio network by comparing a predetermined threshold set for each traffic type of said uplink packet with the state of use of reception power resources in said base station.

8. The communication control system according to claim 5, wherein said traffic type is identified by means of a code point of a DiffServ IP packet (DSCP).

9. A communication control method in a packet mobile communication that transmits a downlink packet from a base station to a mobile station via a radio network, comprising the step of;

- A) determining, in said base station, whether or not to transmit the downlink packet to the radio network in accordance with the state of congestion of said radio network and the traffic type of said downlink packet.
10. The communication control method according to claim 9, wherein said base station, in said step A), estimates the state of congestion of said radio network in accordance with the state of use of transmission power resources in said base station.
11. The communication control method according to claim 10, wherein said base station, in said step A), estimates the state of congestion of said radio network by comparing a predetermined threshold set for each traffic type of said downlink packet with the state of use of transmission power resources in said base station.
12. The communication control method according to claim 9, wherein said traffic type is identified by means of a code point of a DiffServ IP packet (DSCP).
13. A communication control method in a packet mobile communication that transmits an uplink packet from a mobile station to a base station via a radio network, comprising the steps of:
- A) determining, in said base station, whether or not to admit the uplink packet transmitted from said mobile station via the radio network in accordance with the state of congestion of said radio network and the traffic type of said uplink packet;
- B) notifying, in said base station, the determined result to said mobile station; and
- C) determining, in said mobile station, whether or not to transmit said uplink packet to said radio network in accordance with said notified result.
14. The communication control method according to claim 13, wherein said base station, in said step A), estimates the state of congestion of said radio network in accordance with the state of use of reception power resources in said base station.
15. The communication control method according to claim 14, wherein said base station, in said step A), estimates the state of congestion of said radio network by comparing a predetermined threshold set for each traffic type of said uplink packet with the state of use of reception power resources in said base station.
16. The communication control method according to claim 13, wherein said traffic type is identified by means of a code point of a DiffServ IP packet (DSCP).
17. A base station that transmits a downlink packet to a mobile station via a radio network, comprising a transmission determiner for determining whether or not to transmit the downlink packet to the radio network in accordance with the state of congestion of said radio network and the traffic type of said downlink packet.
18. The base station according to claim 17, wherein said transmission determiner estimates the state of congestion of said radio network in accordance with the state of use of transmission power resources in said base station.
19. The base station according to claim 18, wherein said transmission determiner estimates the state of congestion of said radio network by comparing a predetermined threshold set for each traffic type of said downlink packet with the state of use of transmission power resources in said base station.
20. A base station according to claim 17, wherein said traffic type is identified by means of code point of a DiffServ IP packet (DSCP).
21. A base station that receives an uplink packet from a mobile station via a radio network, comprising:
- an admission determiner for determining whether or not to admit the uplink packet transmitted from said mobile station via the radio network in accordance with the state of congestion of said radio network and the traffic type of said uplink packet; and
- a notifier for notifying the determined result to said mobile station.
22. The base station according to claim 21, wherein said admission determiner estimates the state of congestion of said radio network in accordance with the state of use of reception power resources in said base station.
23. The base station according to claim 22, wherein said admission determiner estimates the state of congestion of said radio network by comparing a predetermined threshold set for each traffic type of said uplink packet with the state of use of reception power resources in said base station.
24. The base station according to claim 21, wherein said traffic type is identified by means of a code point of a DiffServ IP packet (DSCP).

25. A mobile station that transmits an uplink packet to a base station via a radio network, comprising a transmission determiner for determining whether or not to transmit said uplink packet to said radio network in accordance with the state of congestion of said radio network and the traffic type of said uplink packet.

10

15

20

25

30

35

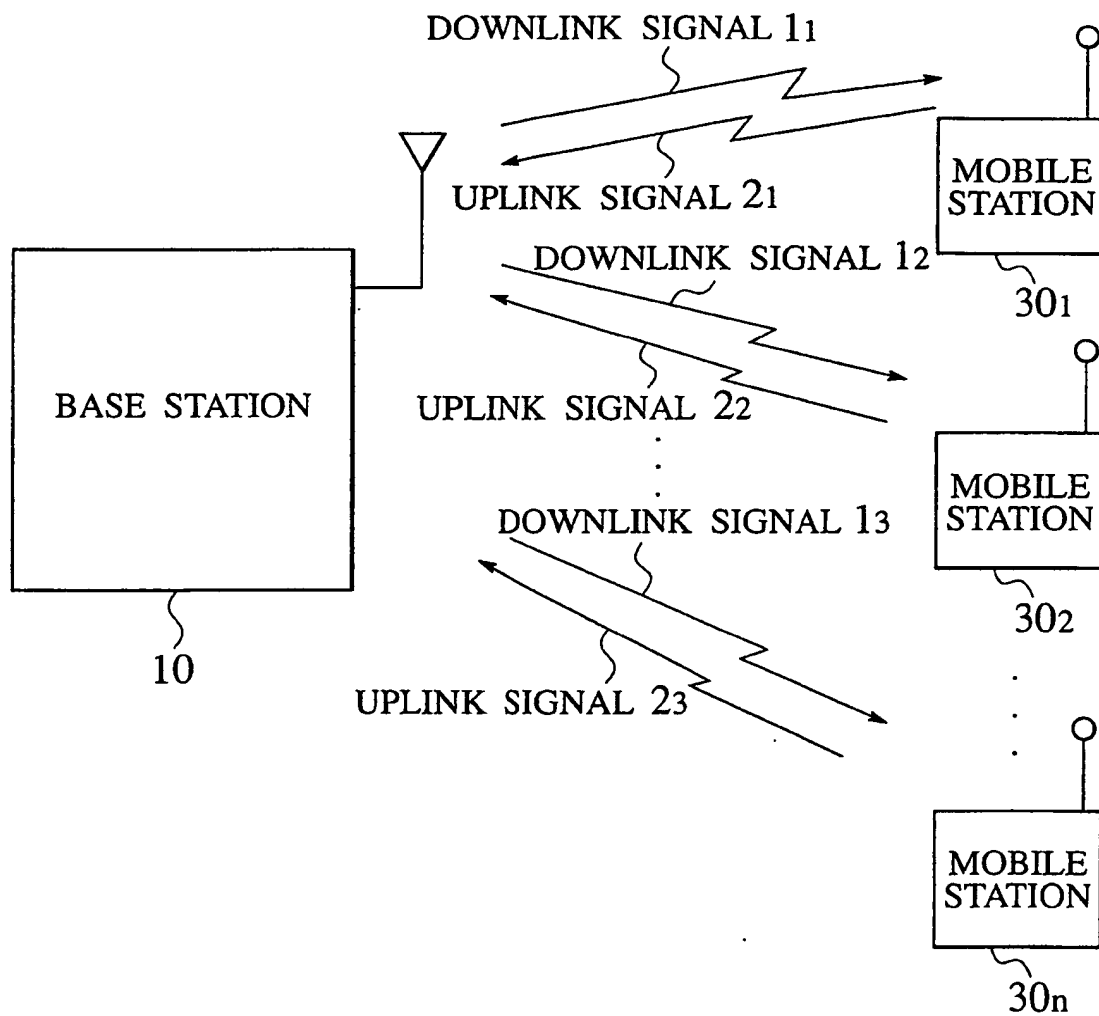
40

45

50

55

FIG.1



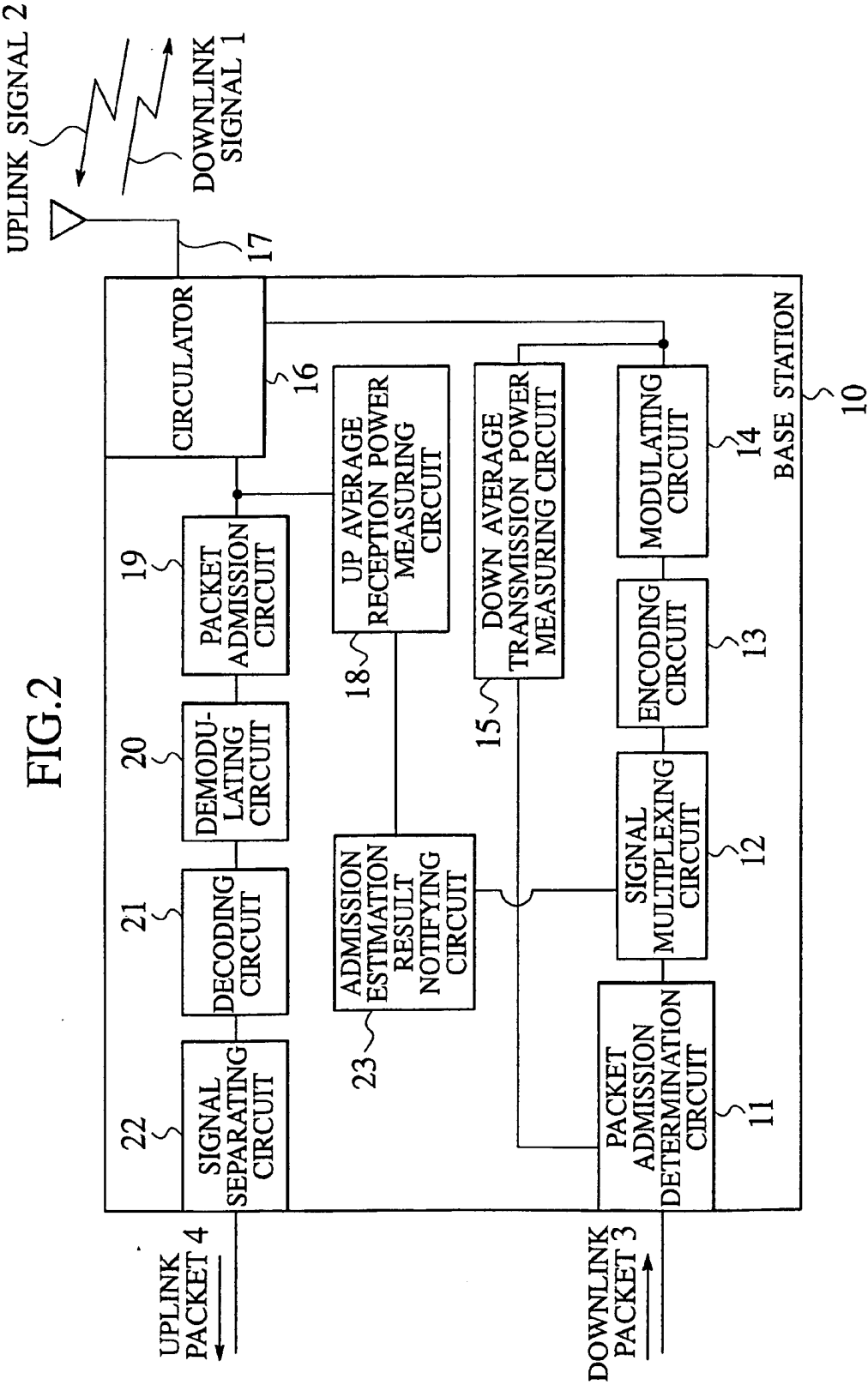


FIG.3

TRAFFIC TYPE	EF(Expedited Forwarding)	AF(Assured Forwarding)	BE(Best Effort)
DSCP	101110	XXXXYY0	000000
PRIORITY	THE HIGHEST QUALITY AND PRIORITY CLASS	THE PRIORITY CLASS NEXT TO THE EF	BEST EFFORT COMMON TO Diffserv UNSUPPORTED ROUTER

FIG.4

	CLASS 1	CLASS 2	CLASS 3	CLASS 4
LEVEL 1 (DISCARD PRIORITY : LOW)	001010	010010	011010	100010
LEVEL 2 (DISCARD PRIORITY : MIDDLE)	001100	010100	011100	100100
LEVEL 3 (DISCARD PRIORITY : HIGH)	001110	010110	011110	100110

FIG.5

TRAFFIC TYPE	EF	AF4	AF3	AF2	AF1	BE
ADMISSION THRESHOLD N_i	90 %	80 %	70 %	60 %	50 %	40 %

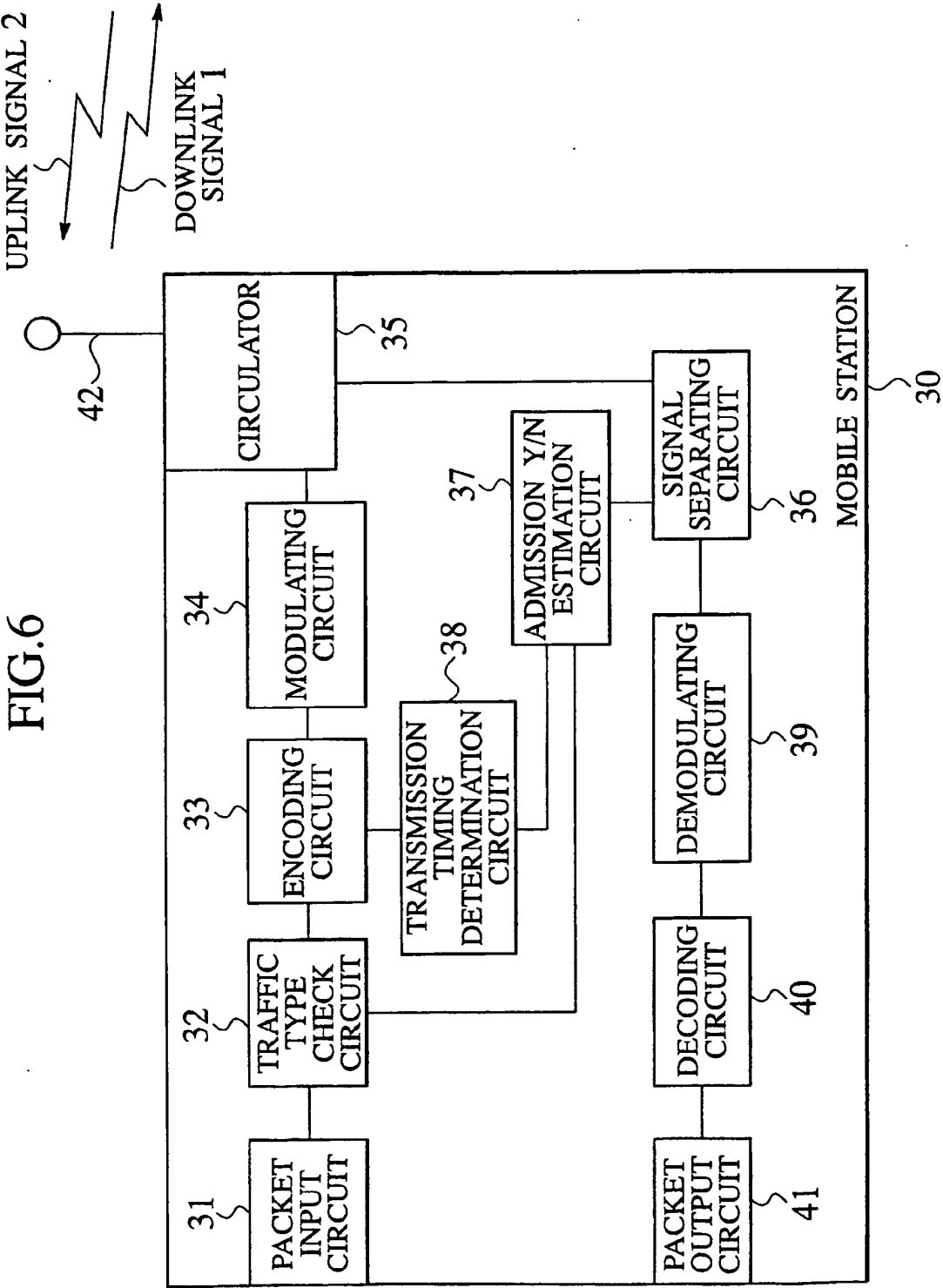


FIG.7

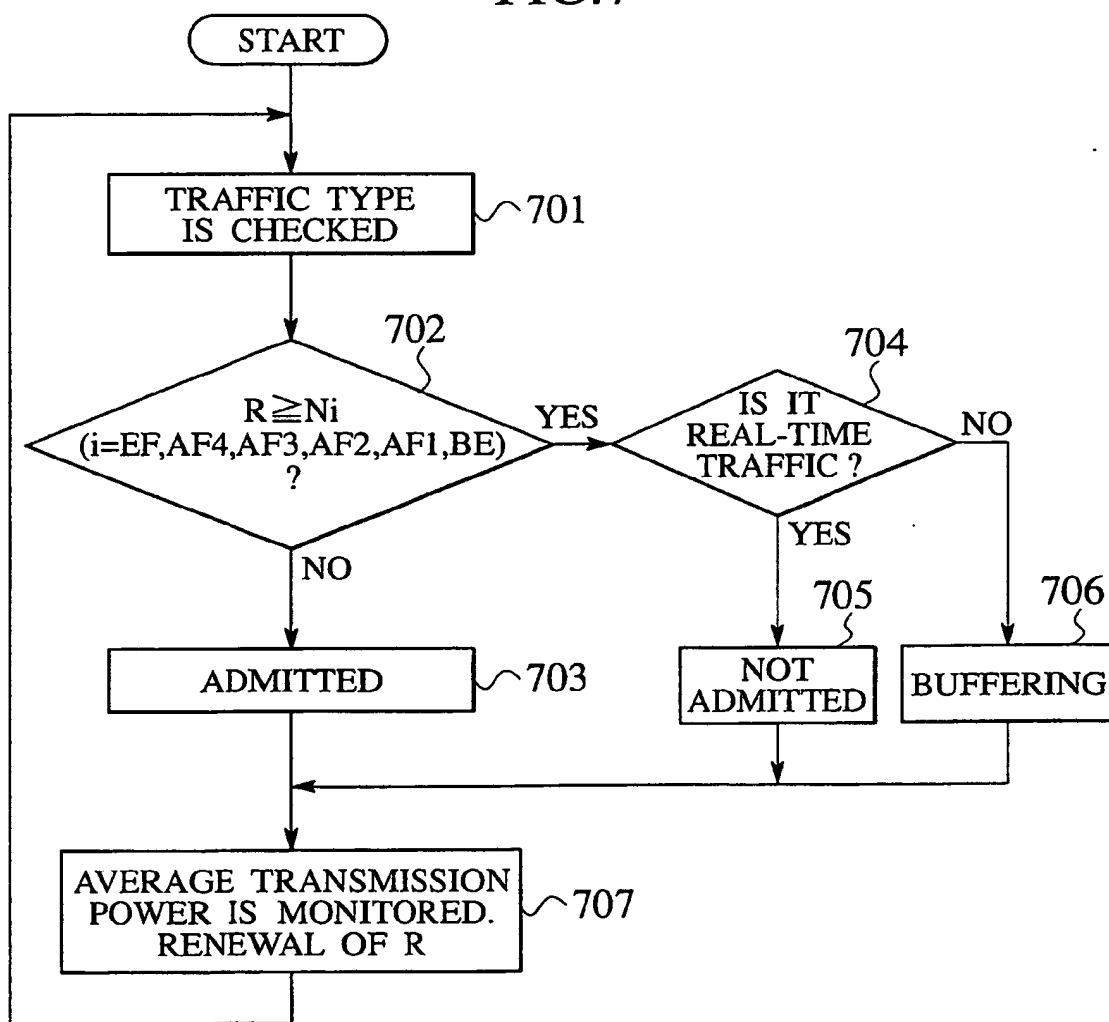


FIG. 8

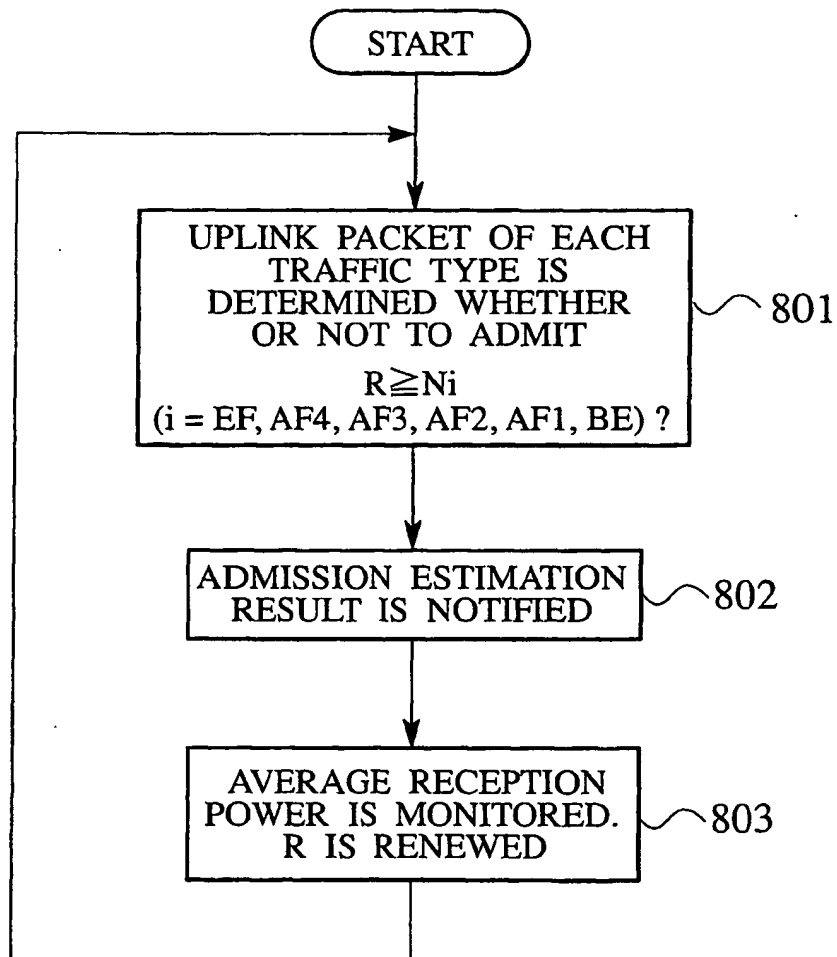
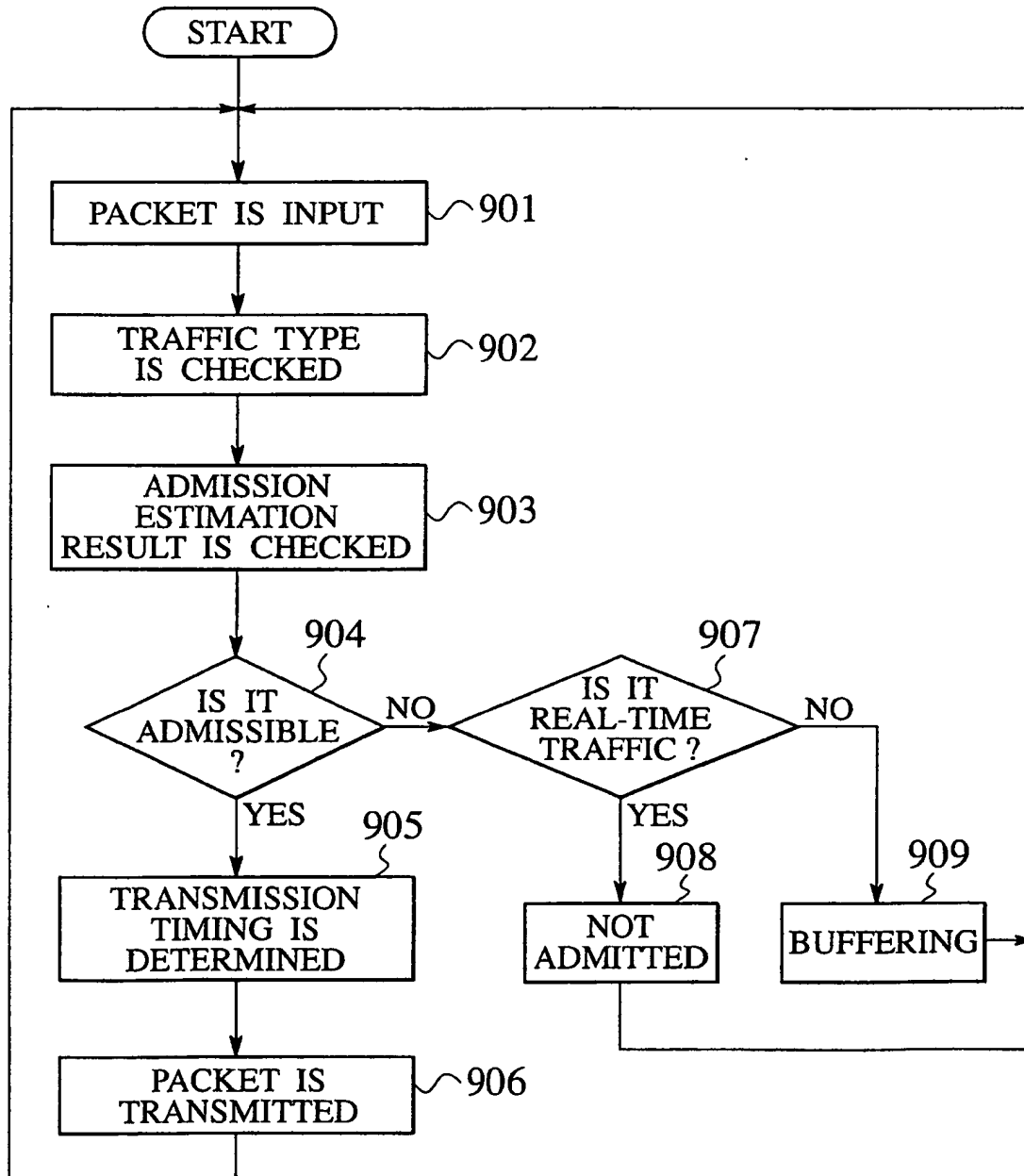


FIG.9



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
04.02.2004 Bulletin 2004/06

(51) Int Cl.⁷: **H04Q 7/38**

(43) Date of publication A2:
11.06.2003 Bulletin 2003/24

(21) Application number: 02027548.3

(22) Date of filing: 09.12.2002

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE SI SK TR
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO

- **Kayama, Hidetoshi, Int.Prop.Dpt.,
NTT DoCoMo, Inc.
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo (JP)**
- **Umeda, Narumi, Int. Prop. Dpt.,
NTT DoCoMo, Inc.
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo (JP)**

(30) Priority: 10.12.2001 JP 2001376420

(71) Applicant: NTT DoCoMo, Inc.
Tokyo 100-6150 (JP)

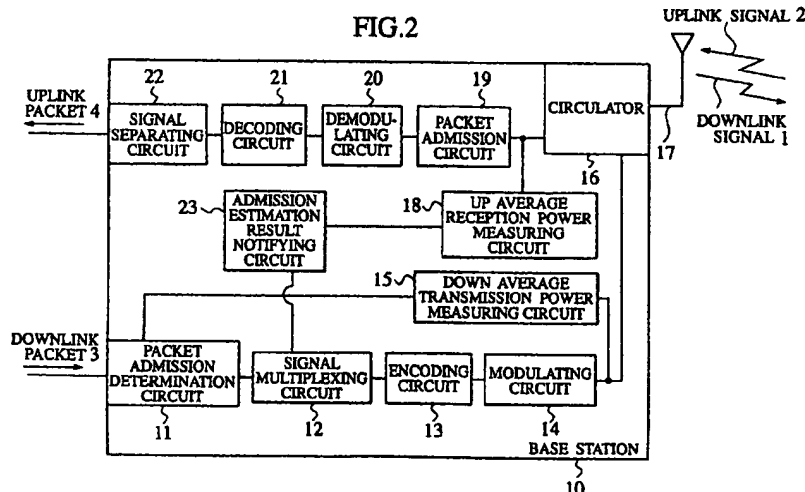
(74) Representative: **HOFFMANN - EITLE**
Patent- und Rechtsanwälte
Arabellastrasse 4
81925 München (DE)

(72) Inventors:
• **Chen, Lan, Int. Prop. Dpt., NTT DoCoMo, Inc.
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo (JP)**

(54) **Communication control system, communication control method, base station and mobile station**

(57) It is an object of the present invention to control the traffic that flows in a radio link to ensure the stability of the network as well as to prevent the deterioration of the communication quality due to the transmission of packets exceeding the capacity, and to increase the communication capacity. The invention relates to a communication control system in a packet mobile commu-

nication that transmits a downlink packet (3) from a base station (10) to a mobile station (30) via a radio network. According to the invention, the base station (10) comprises a transmission determiner (11) that determines whether or not to transmit the downlink packet (3) to the radio network in accordance with the state of congestion of the radio network and the traffic type (DSCP) of the downlink packet (3).





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 02 7548

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	WO 97 16039 A (ERICSSON TELEFON AB L M) 1 May 1997 (1997-05-01) * abstract * * page 4, line 4 - line 15 * * page 5, line 20 - page 6, line 20 * * page 8, line 19 - page 9, line 17 * * page 12, line 17 - page 14, line 2 * * figures 8A,8B *	1,5,9, 13,17, 21,25	H04Q7/38
Y	---	2-4,6-8, 10-12, 14-16, 18-20, 22-24	
Y	WO 99 45736 A (ERICSSON TELEFON AB L M) 10 September 1999 (1999-09-10) * abstract * * page 8, line 16 - page 9, line 8 * * page 16, line 12 - page 18, line 29 *	2,3,6,7, 10,11, 14,15, 18,19, 22,23	
Y	LOUKAS R ET AL: "FUZZY RED: CONGESTION CONTROL FOR TCP/IP DIFF-SERV" MELECON 2000. 10TH. MEDITERRANEAN ELECTROTECHNICAL CONFERENCE. LEMESOS, CYPRUS, MAY 29 - 31, 2000, MELECON CONFERENCES, NEW YORK, NY: IEEE, US, vol. 1 OF 3. CONF. 10, 29 May 2000 (2000-05-29), pages 19-22, XP001017019 ISBN: 0-7803-6291-8 * paragraph [B.RED] * ---	4,8,12, 16,20,24	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) H04Q H04L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 12 December 2003	Examiner Lombardi, G
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P04C01)



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 02 7548

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	GB 2 343 331 A (ROKE MANOR RESEARCH) 3 May 2000 (2000-05-03) * abstract * * page 16, line 1 - line 20 * ---	1-25	
A	WO 01 93620 A (ERICSSON TELEFON AB L M) 6 December 2001 (2001-12-06) * abstract * * page 7, line 13 - line 31 * -----	1-25	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 12 December 2003	Examiner Lombardi, G
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P4/C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 02 02 7548

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

12-12-2003

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9716039	A	01-05-1997	US 5757772 A	26-05-1998
			AU 720521 B2	01-06-2000
			AU 7355096 A	15-05-1997
			CA 2235822 A1	01-05-1997
			EP 0857398 A1	12-08-1998
			JP 11513868 T	24-11-1999
			WO 9716039 A1	01-05-1997

WO 9945736	A	10-09-1999	US 2001053695 A1	20-12-2001
			AU 765049 B2	04-09-2003
			AU 2756499 A	20-09-1999
			BR 9908577 A	21-11-2000
			CA 2322296 A1	10-09-1999
			CN 1292981 T	25-04-2001
			EP 1060631 A1	20-12-2000
			JP 2002506334 T	26-02-2002
			WO 9945736 A1	10-09-1999

GB 2343331	A	03-05-2000	NONE	

WO 0193620	A	06-12-2001	AU 6393601 A	11-12-2001
			WO 0193620 A1	06-12-2001

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ **BLACK BORDERS**
- ☐ **IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- ☐ **FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- ☐ **SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- ☐ **COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- ☐ **GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- ☐ **LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- ☐ **REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- ☐ **OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.